

Waukesha County Community Gardens GUIDELINES

Welcome to season twenty one of the Waukesha County Community Gardens! To provide the best experience for all gardeners we have developed the following guidelines and ask for your cooperation. **Please read this at the start of the season so you are aware of all guidelines.**

1. All gardeners must be Waukesha County residents and **sign Waiver on the Reservation Form**. Neither Waukesha County nor the University of Wisconsin Extension Office is liable in case of accident, theft, or vandalism.
2. Plots will be **approximately 20'x20' and 30'x30'** and are marked off by garden coordinator. **Rental fees are \$50.00 and \$70.00 respectively**. Previous gardeners can reserve their prior space if done by **Monday, February 8th. NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN**. Requests for multiple plots will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis due to the high volume in interest to rent a garden space. First year community gardeners are allowed to rent only one plot.
3. **Plowing will be done in May**. The weather as well as waiting our turn for plowing all factor in as to when it is done. We appreciate your patience.
4. **Gardens will OPEN approximately Saturday, May 14th, 2016**, weather permitting (see #3).
5. **Gardens will CLOSE on Monday, October 24th, 2016**. Produce must be harvested and plots cleaned. This includes the removal of everything you brought into the garden including any fencing, stakes, string, tomato cages, tarp, plastic, etc. by date listed above. Thick-stem vegetables (i.e., corn), thick-stem flowers (i.e., sunflower), and thick-stem weeds also need to be removed. **An additional \$25 fee will be charged to the gardener for the next year they garden.**
6. **Failure to Garden:** If you have not gardened (i.e. barely planted, mostly all weeds) for TWO consecutive years, you will not be allowed to garden the following year per the discretion of the Community Garden Coordinator.

7. Gardens:

Non-Organic Gardens = Rows A, B, C, E, F, X-- have some restrictions. Chemical weed killers (herbicides) are NOT allowed. If any insect problem develops, we encourage the use of biological insect control. Chemical fertilizers are allowed.

Organic Garden = Row D -- This area is "organic" which allows for the use of only materials certified for organic gardening such as pheromone traps, horticultural oils, BT, insecticidal soaps, hot pepper sprays, compost, and manures. Commercial chemical pesticides and fertilizers not certified for organic gardening should not be used. This includes insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, and fertilizers.

8. **Fences** are allowed around plots but **space** must be accommodated for other gardener's movement in and about the garden and to water tanks.





9. Children must be supervised at the garden.

10. Mulch: Carpet as mulch is NOT Allowed for many concerns. Even plastic and fabric mulch are NOT Recommended. Both are difficult to remove and dispose of at the end of the growing season and such materials can get caught in our equipment and require mechanical removal and sometimes costly repairs. Newspaper, straw, or hay would be a better choice for weed suppression since these can decompose (and do not need to be removed).

11. Garden Paths: Use only established paths for going to and from plots. Garden pathways are to be maintained (weeded, mowed, etc) by the gardening community surrounding the paths. Pathways should have no planted material growing on them. All vegetable plantings and garden supplies (i.e. hose) should be kept inside your fence or garden plot area. All paths to the water and other plots should be passable and not fenced off.

12. Website/Newsletter: Please visit our website (<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/uwex/hort/communitygardens/>) for updates and garden information. In addition, gardeners receive 4 to 5 newsletters ("The Garden Connection") during the growing season. Newsletters will be mailed to those without email. Past newsletters can also be found on this website.

13. Water:

- Will be available on site and can be carried to plots from the water tanks.
- Hooking up your garden hose to one of the various tanks or couplers at the garden is allowed. If doing this, please be considerate of other gardeners.
- Sprinklers are NOT allowed.

14. Garden Plot Appearance: All gardeners are responsible for controlling the weeds at the beginning of and throughout the growing season and preventing them from spreading to other gardens. If you feel a garden plot has been abandoned, due to the excess weed growth, contact us. We will contact the gardener. Also see #6.

15. Gardeners provide their own tools, seeds, and plants. Tall crops (corn, sunflower, trellised plants) may be grown, but should not shade another plot.

16. Permanent Garden Plots: There are a limited number of "permanent" gardens (plots that are not tilled in Spring). There is a waiting list, please contact office.

17. Pets are NOT allowed. In addition, feeding of animals at the garden (i.e., squirrels, chipmunks, deer, etc.) is not allowed.

18. Garden Rows: Consider the benefit of planting in raised garden rows (see photo) and/or positioning the rows in your garden in such a way as to avoid run-off during heavy rains.

19. Questions? Contact Christa at the Waukesha County UW-Extension Office: 262-548-7775 or cthao@waukeshacounty.gov